

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PHNOM 06209 221220 Z

50

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 AID-20 AGR-20 COME-00 TRSE-00

SSO-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 STR-08 IO-13

OMB-01 RSR-01 NSCE-00 USIE-00 IGA-02 /143 W

----- 023954

O R 221140 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1793

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

COMUSMACTHAI

SECDEF

USSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 6209

FOR STATE/ AID

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EAGR, CB

SUBJ: RICE CRISIS - DAILY UPDATE

REF: PHNOM PENH 6167

1. DURING THE PERIOD OF THE PRESENT RICE CRISIS WE PLAN TO
PROVIDE A DAILY RICE UPDATE. THE FOLLOWING IS A PROJECTION OF
THE RICE SITUATION IN PHNOM PENH COVERING THE PERIOD FROM
JUNE 21 THROUGH JULY 1.

	6/21	6/22	6/23	6/24	6/25	6/26
BEGINNING STOCK	9,370	8,820	8,270	7,720	7,270	6,620
ROUTE 4	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
MEKONG	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-
TOTAL AVAILABLE	9,370	8,820	8,270	7,720	7,170	6,620
LESS DISTRIBUTION	550	550	550	550	550	550

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PAGE 02 PHNOM 06209 221220 Z

END STOCKS	8,820	8,21	7,720	7,170	6,620	6,070
	6/27	6/28	6/29	6/30	7/1	
BEGINNING STOCK	6,070	6,620	6,070	5,520	6,070	
ROUTE 4	1,100	-0-	-0-	1,100	-0-	
MEKONG	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	
TOTAL AVAILABLE	7,170	6,620	6,070	6,620	6,070	
LESS DIESTRIBUTION	550	550	550	550	550	
END STOCKS	6,620	6,070	5,520	6,070	5,520	OR 10.0 DAYS
	IN THE EVENT ROUTE 4 IS CLOSED.....3,320 OR 6.0 DAYS					
	WITH DISTRIBUTION AT 700 M/ T PER DAY.....1,670 OR 2.4 DAYS.					

2. MEKONG CONVOY. AS REPORTED REFTEL, THE TWO RICE BARGES NOW IN KOMPONG SOM WILL NOT RPT NOT BE ABLE TO JOIN THE MEKONG CONVOY SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN PHNOM PENH ON OR ABOUT JUNE 28.

3. ROUTE 4 CONVOY. STARTING ON THE 27 TH OF JUNE, THE GKR PLANS A RICE CONVOY EVERY THREE DAYS. WE HAVE BEEN URGING THE GKR TO UTILIZE MORE TRUCKS IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF RICE ON EACH CONVOY. THE PRIMARY PROBLEM APPEARS TO BE NOT THE AVAILABILITY OF TRUCKS BUT THE RATE PER TON PAID BY SONEXIM TO PRIVATE TRUCKERS (1,600 RIELS PER METRIC TON VIS-A-VIS 2,400 RIELS PER TON FOR GENERAL CARGO). ALTHOUGH ALL CONVOYS ON ROUTE 4 HAVE TO CARRY RICE, APPARENTLY MANY TRUCKERS WOULD RATHER REMAIN IDLE THAN HAUL AT A LOWER RATE. WE ARE PRESSING THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SONEXIM FOR A RATE CHANGE AND PENDING AN INCREASE WE ARE PROJECTING ONLY 1,100 M/ T PER CONVOY (WHICH IS THE MINIMUM THAT THE GKR EXPECTS TO BE ABLE TO HAUL) RATHER THAN 1,500 STATED REFTEL.

4. ROUTE 5. AT PRESENT THE KI CONTROLS APPROXIMATELY 8 KM. OF ROUTE 5. ELEMENTS OF THE FIRST DIVISION ARE BEING MOVED TO SALA LEAK PRAM (AT THE SOUTHERN END OF THE CUT) IN AN ATTEMPT TO DISLODGE THE ENEMY. THE OUTLOOK IS FOR AT LEAST SEVERAL DAYS MORE FIGHTING AND PERHAPS LONGER.

5. RICE DISTRIBUTION. BY TOMORROW, WE SHOULD HAVE THE FIRST INDICATION AS TO WHETHER THE GOVERNMENT' S PLAN (STARTING JUNE 20) TO LIMIT DISTRIBUTION TO 550 METRIC TONS PER DAY IS TAKING EFFECT. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT HAVE FINAL FIGURES FOR JUNE 20 AND 21, PRELIMINARY REPORTS INDICATE THAT DISTRIBUTION FOR THE CIVILIAN SECTOR ONLY TOTALED 510 M/ T ON JUNE 20 AND 203 M/ T ON JUNE 21. WHILE THIS WOULD

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PAGE 03 PHNOM 06209 221220 Z

INDICATE A HIGHER RATE FOR THE 20 TH, THE 21 ST TOTAL SHOULD BE IN LINE WITH A 550 M/ T PER DAY TOTAL.

SWANK

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PHNOM06209
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730626/aaaajkdn.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 PHNOM PENH 6167
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Nov-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <14-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980219
Subject: RICE CRISIS - DAILY UPDATE
TAGS: EAGR, EGEN, CB
To: BANGKOK
CINCPAC
COMUSMACTHAI
EA
SAIGON
SECSTATE WASHDC
USSAG

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005